

INSIDE

Elba Tigers put together winning streak in basketball



The Elba Clipper
125 YEARS
1897 2022

INSIDE

New Brockton Christmas Parade held recently



The Elba Clipper

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1 Section, 8 Pages Plus 1 Adv Insert

Sonny Moore appointed to Coffee County Commission, District 3, seat by governor

by Linda Hodge, Editor

By appointment of Governor Kay Ivey, Coffee County's District Three, has a new commissioner to serve out the remainder of the term previously held by Josh Carnley.

Carnley took office in November as Alabama State Senator for District 31.

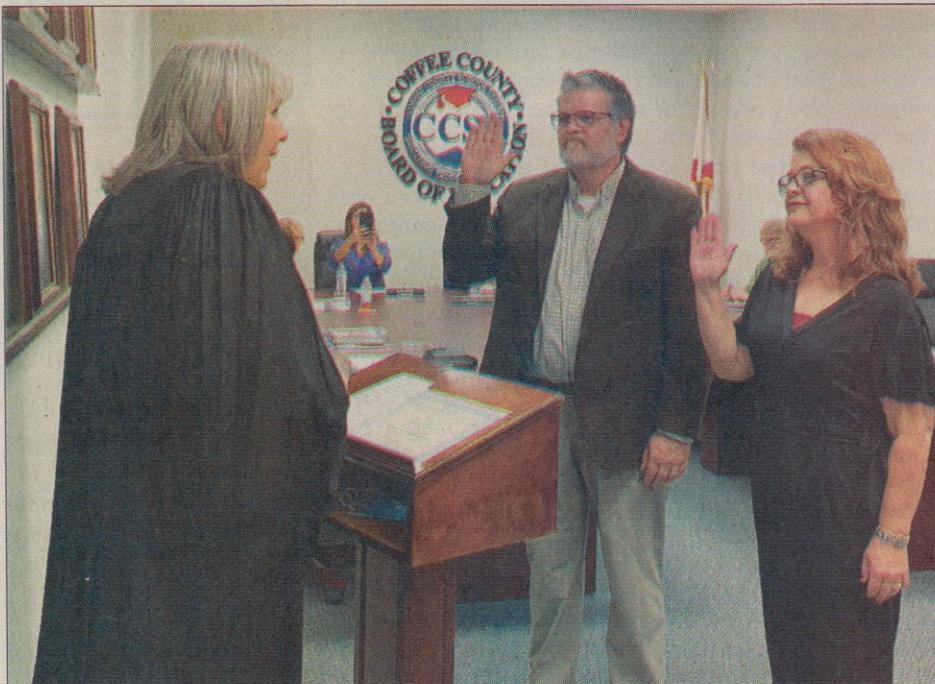
On Wednesday, Dec. 7, the governor appointed Alvin "Sonny" Moore III as the new commissioner for Coffee County, District Three. In a letter to Moore, Governor Ivey wrote, "I hereby appoint you to the

Enterprise for five and a half years, and he retired from the pastorate in 2015.

Moore was married to his fourth grade sweetheart, Martha, for almost 40 years before she passed away in 2005. He is the father of three children and seven grandchildren.

In 2011, Moore married Dr. Celia Stump of Enterprise. She has practiced dentistry in Dothan for the past 30 years.

After accepting the oath of office, Moore took his seat alongside the other commissioners for his first Commission meeting.



12th Judicial Circuit Judge Shannon Clark (left) administered the oath of office Thursday evening, Dec. 8, to two Coffee County Board of Education members. Eric Payne, District 6, and Rhonda Strickland, District 4, were sworn-in to serve new terms on the board at the start of the regular monthly meeting. Payne was re-elected to continue serving the citizens of District 6 while Strickland was elected to her first term as the District 4 representative on the county school board.

Coffee County BOE members approve purchase of five new buses for system

by Linda Hodge, Editor

During the regular monthly meeting for the Coffee County Board of Education held last Thursday evening, Dec. 8, board members approved the purchase of five new buses for the school system.

Superintendent Kelly Cobb said due to fleet renewal monies and other funds available that no local dollars would be used in purchasing the five buses. She said the average cost of a school bus now is around \$116,000 each, but that the system would be purchasing these new buses at only

\$108,000 each. She said the buses would be equipped with everything as normal, including air conditioning, cameras, etc.

"It is outstanding and shows the strong fiscal management of the system," Cobb said in being able to purchase the buses without using local monies.

Board members approved the schedule of meetings for 2023. There will be no regular meeting in January. Beginning in February, the approved schedule for regular meetings will be – Feb. 2; March 2; April 6; May 4; June 8; July 6; Aug. 3; Sept.

See CCBOE, Page 5



Elba Mayor Tom Maddox (right) presented a certificate Monday evening, Dec. 12, to Elba High School senior Aimee Senn (center) during the Elba City Council meeting. The certificate honored Senn on her recent accomplishment for being named the 2022 Coffee County Good Citizen by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution John Coffee Chapter. Maddox said the city is proud of Miss Senn and her accomplishments. Also present for the presentation was Aimee's father, Johnny Senn (left).

Newly appointed Coffee County Commissioner Sonny Moore, left, accepts the oath of office Monday morning, Dec. 12, prior to his first commission meeting as his wife, Celia, holds a Bible for him. The oath of office was administered by Coffee County Probate Judge Jodee R. Thompson (right).

Retiring Coffee County E911 Coordinator honored during C.C. Commission meeting

by Linda Hodge, Editor

During the Coffee County Commission meeting held Monday morning, Dec. 12, retiring E911 coordinator Marvin McIlwain was honored by county and state officials for his many years of dedicated service to Coffee County.

McIlwain has served as Coffee County E911 coordinator for 19 years now, and E911 board chairman Dean Blair said since he was a child himself, he had watched McIlwain serve in numerous roles in public service.

"I've watched him dedicate his life to public service," Blair said. "We started counting it all up

and after we hit the 50-year mark, we lost track. Marvin has definitely served this county well."

Blair said his service included being Coffee County Coroner for many years, serving stints as Editor of The Elba Clipper, Coffee County Environmental Services Officer, and E911 Coordinator. Also, he said McIlwain had served with the Elba Fire Department and Rescue, and as a reserve officer with the Coffee County Sheriff's Office over the years.

"We are very thankful that Marvin has done all he has done for Coffee County," Blair added. "We can't replace Marvin. He has done a great job as our 911 coordinator, but we wish him a happy retirement."

McIlwain's retirement will be effective on Dec. 31, 2022.

He said when he turned 80 years old, his two daughters convinced him it was time to finally retire.

"It is bittersweet," McIlwain said. "I have learned that when you get old, you get more emotional. There is not a greater honor you can have than to be honored by your peers, and my peers have outdone themselves."

McIlwain said he also had the privilege of serving as Sheriff for nine days after the murder of his friend, Sheriff Neil Grantham.

See RETIRE, Page 5



Coffee County E911 coordinator Marvin McIlwain (left) was honored Monday, Dec. 12, during the Coffee County Commission meeting. He will be retiring, effective Dec. 31, after 19 years serving in coordinator's role; however, McIlwain's public service career in Coffee County spans over 50 years. Among his service roles were those as Coffee County Coroner, and Editor of The Elba Clipper. Above, he receives a plaque from Coffee County E911 chairman Dean Blair.

Area Happenings

DAV WIREGRASS CHAPTER 99, located in New Brockton, will meet Thursday, Dec. 15, at 6 p.m. at the New Brockton Senior Citizens Center. This will be the annual Christmas get-together. There will be hors d'oeuvres, holiday cakes and other desserts along with coffee, hot tea, and iced tea. For further information contact Charles Lobdell at 334-718-5707 or Mike Doran at 334-406-6700.

THE CITY OF ELBA OFFICES will be closed Friday, Dec. 23, and Monday, Dec. 26 in observance of the Christmas holidays. For utility emergencies during this time, call the Elba Police Department at (334) 897-2555 to report an outage. Garbage service will run on the regular schedule the week of Christmas.

THERE WILL BE NO GARBAGE PICKUP FOR COFFEE COUNTY CUSTOMERS on Mondays, Dec. 26, and Jan. 2, due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays. Garbage pickup for those weeks will shift one day (i.e. Mondays pickup moves to Tuesday and so on for the remainder of the week).

Police Chief provides year-to-date statistics report to Elba City Council

During the Elba City Council meeting Monday evening, Police Chief Troy Staley provided a year-to-date activity report for his department.

The chief said his officers had issued 824 traffic citations during 2022 as of Monday evening. He said officers also had issued 596 warnings over the year.

Regarding drug-related arrests, Staley said Elba Police had made 50 arrests for possession of a controlled substance, as well as 50 arrests for possession of drug paraphernalia. He said there had been one trafficking arrest. Also, he noted four arrests for distribution of a controlled substance but said that number is actually high-

er than four.

Elba Police so far this year have made six arrests for felony possession of marijuana, and more than 34 arrests for possession of marijuana – second degree, according to the police chief.

Asked about his staff, Staley said the department is down three officers from being fully-staffed. He said there had remained one vacancy since he took the job, however, he had lost two officers previously hired by him due to better paying jobs.

"I've lost one officer to another agency after he was offered a pretty substantial pay increase, and I lost another officer to a completely different career where he could make more money."

EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS

With Ferrin Cox

"The real frightening thing about middle age is knowing you'll grow out of it." — Doris Day

Lots of words have been written and said about Hershel Walker losing his political race because Donald Trump endorsed him. We are not so sure of that. Here is a guy who had all sorts of baggage, who made dumb comments on the campaign trail, never been in politics before and he came within a gnat's hair of becoming Georgia's U. S. Senator. Race was not an issue, as both candidates were of the same race, so what was his appeal if not the Trump support?

We were never an Elvis Presley fan. It turned out we were both in the Army and in Germany at the same time. Those military bases were mostly small and fairly close together which was good because lots of our support units were 30 or 40 miles away at another small base. One day we rode in the back of an Army truck thirty miles away to retake a driver license test because a batch of test answer sheets, including ours, had gotten "lost". We grumbled but had to have that license to even operate a portable generator around the airfield. Anyway after retaking the test, we headed to the snack bar. The aisle to the food counter was crowded, not by others wanting a midday snack, but by Elvis Presley and GI fans of the singer. By the time we worked our way past that crowd to the food, our disdain for Presley had grown! Fast forward to December 2022 and one of our daughters-in-law goes to Memphis for a weekend and floods our computer with "Elvis" pictures . . . her standing by cutouts of the late singer, by flashing neon signs, etc., Oh, but she will pay for that . . . my day is coming!

The past couple of weeks the news of the latest con artist collapse into mass financial losses for investors has people blaming people for the financial disaster. Anyway, the man at the head of the bitcoin company that registered the first and largest collapse was arrested this week and is being brought back to the U.S. for trial. In spite of all that bad publicity, we get an e-mail Tuesday morning talking about this being a "great opportunity" to buy into that "now you see it, now you don't" imaginary coin ownership. We didn't read their sales pitch but did see a bold line that promised profits regardless of the coin's prices going up or down. Now these are some nervy folks to try selling something that has just cost millions and millions in financial losses to folks trying to get rich fast (or just wanted to protect their retirement savings).

Christmas is just around the corner and ole Santa is probably having budget troubles. Every day the news folks are reporting increased prices — on everything — well on everything that is in stock. Supply train glitches continue with truckers facing a shortage of diesel fuel, and cargo ships backed up for days awaiting a slot to unload their cargo. Hopefully we have averted a real disaster, since the feds have stepped in and prevented a massive railroad workers strike. Now if the workers and the railroads will just come to some sort of agreement on the issue of "sick day pay" we can all sigh in relief.

Be safe, wear your mask when appropriate, social distance, wash your hands AND get the shot(s) and/or boosters (the newest one)!

Notices:

** The Elba Clipper office will be closed Monday, Dec. 26, in observance of the Christmas holiday.

** The City of Elba offices will be closed Friday, Dec. 23, and Monday, Dec. 26, in observance of the Christmas holiday.

Also, the city offices will be closed Monday, Jan. 2, in observance of the New Year's Day holiday.



LUNCHEON PILOTS RECEIVE GRANT FOR "PROJECT LIFESAVER" . . . The Enterprise Luncheon Pilot Club received a \$5,000 grant for "Project Lifesaver" from All In Credit Union. Project Lifesaver is funded in Coffee County by the Luncheon Pilot Club, which works with Coffee County Sheriff's Office to make sure people who wander away in Coffee County can be found quickly and efficiently. The Sheriff's Department is provided wrist or ankle bracelets, batteries for the bracelets and tracking equipment equipped with a small transmitter that emits a signal that law enforcement officials can track when someone goes missing. Funding is provided by the Luncheon Pilot Club of Enterprise to make sure no one in the county who has a brain-related disease can wander off and not be found and this is a free service for the caregiver. Shown in photo (from left): Casie Crumb, Whitney Shirah, Amber Wambles, Whitley Schado, Jane Baxley, Fran Walters, Bonnie Gilmore, Lisa Hales, Charity Miale and Candace Stafford.

Elba Police Report

The Elba Police Department, between Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2022, and Monday, Dec. 12, 2022, conducted the following activity:

Tuesday, Dec. 6 — Traffic accident reported on County Rd 354 (6:34 a.m.); Animal complaint reported at 930 Elm Ave (12:59 p.m.). Two traffic stops resulted in one verbal warning, and one citation.

Wednesday, Dec. 7 — No Report Received.

Thursday, Dec. 8 — No Report Received.

Friday, Dec. 9 — Animal complaint reported at 7360 Hwy 87 (7:12 a.m.); Theft by deception reported on Hwy 84 (8:30 a.m.); Animal complaint reported at 460 County Rd 401 (8:31 a.m.); Animal complaint reported at 219 Taylor Ave (8:55 a.m.); Suspicious person reported on Putnam St (8:59 a.m.); Animal complaint reported at 1581 Highland Dr (10:08 a.m.); Trespassing reported at 2029 Taylor Mill Rd (1:55 p.m.); Animal complaint reported at 416 Williams Ave (1:58 p.m.); Animal complaint reported at 1215 Caroline St — citation issued (3:17 p.m.); Suspicious vehicle

reported at Industrial Blvd and Hickman Ave (3:40 p.m.); Intoxicated driver reported on Hwy 84 (5:57 p.m.); Lost/Found property reported at 509 N Claxton Ave (7:08 p.m.). One traffic stop resulted in a verbal warning.

Saturday, Dec. 10 — Suspicious vehicle reported at 238 Larkin Rd (3:28 p.m.); Identity theft reported at 154 Yelverton Ave (6:14 p.m.); Harassing communications reported to Elba Police (6:58 p.m.); Suspicious circumstances reported at 154 Yelverton Ave (7:42 p.m.); Noise complaint reported at 22110 Hwy 87 (11:56 p.m.). One traffic stop resulted in advice given.

Sunday, Dec. 11 — No Report Received.

Monday, Dec. 12 — Harassment reported at 1013 Hickman Ave (8:40 a.m.); Theft of services reported at 1606 Powell Circle (10:03 a.m.); Harassing communications reported to Elba Police (11:27 a.m.); Harassment reported at 11927 Hwy 189 (12:48 p.m.); Harassing communications reported at 1131 Guyton St (3:49 p.m.); Disturbance reported at 1205 County Rd 400 (3:53 p.m.); Animal complaint reported at 210 S Tyler St, New Brockton (5:59 p.m.); Disturbance reported on Beaver Dam St (6:15 p.m.); Suspicious circumstances reported at 835 N Claxton Ave (9:51 p.m.).



Editor's Note: Cuzin Lou Lou's tales are to be enjoyed as a light-hearted form of Southern expression

Cuzin Lou Lou and Sister ventured off on one of their road trips last week with dear friend Peppi-P joining them for this adventure.

The travels took the three to the 'Home of the Blues'...none other than Memphis! Purpose of the trip was to celebrate Sister's upcoming birthday [she turned double deuces x2 on Dec. 13th] as Lou Lou has purchased tickets to a Pentatonix concert for the celebration.

While walking along Beale Street in Memphis and taking in all the sights, the trio decided to hop in an award-winning BBQ joint for supper before heading to the concert venue just a block or so away from the infamous street. Lou Lou was excited to try "Memphis BBQ" as it is often lauded by many as some of the best in the

country. All three ordered a pulled pork sandwich. Lou Lou and Sister chose onion rings as their side while Peppi-P got fries. When the plates arrived, the aroma coming from the BBQ was delightful.

Of course, each had to choose their sauce for the meat — both Sister and Peppi-P went with sweet BBQ sauce because each has a delicate palate noting liking "spicy or hot" flavors. Lou Lou, on the other hand, said, "bring on the spicy and hot!"

Overall, all three enjoyed their BBQ, but the consensus was that each had enjoyed better — from good 'ole Yonder! While Memphis may put out some tasty BBQ, those folks need to take a ride south to Yonder and try out the local offerings because the BBQ folks in Yonder dish out some BBQ that is as good, or better, than some award-winning samples from the Home of the Blues."

Memphis might not have the market on the best BBQ around, as far as Lou Lou is concerned, but that city knows its music! So, Lou Lou will take good BBQ with great music any day of the week!

Best part of the trip, however, was that Sister seemed to immensely enjoy herself as the trip laughed and had great fun the entire trip! Deep down...that was the part that made Lou Lou's heart feel good and put a smile on her face!

Until next time...God Bless and Keep Smiling!

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Obituaries

Obits are updated regularly on our website: www.elba-clipper.com

JAMES LARRY WALLACE

Mr. James Larry Wallace, age 77, of Goshen, Ala., died Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022, at Luverne Health & Rehab Center in Luverne, Ala.



Funeral services were held Monday, Dec. 12, 2022, from Wise Mill Assembly of God Church with Rev. Ray Layton officiating. Burial followed in the Wise Mill Assembly of God Cemetery with Hayes Funeral Home of Elba directing.

Mr. Wallace was preceded in death by his wife - Ann Marler Wallace, and son - James "JJ" Wallace Jr. Survivors include his daughter: Fran (Neil) Hughes, Goshen; sons: Jason (Deann) Wallace, Enterprise, Ala., Macky Wallace, Goshen; brother: Henry (Denise) Wallace, Baton Rouge, La.; granddaughters: Ann Hughes (Lane) Clark, Goshen, Felicity Wallace, Enterprise; grandsons: Benjamin Hughes, Goshen, Jamie (Kelsey) Wallace, Hartford, Ala., William Wallace, and Grason Wallace, both of Enterprise.

BETTY SUE RHODES SESSIONS

Mrs. Betty Sue Rhodes Sessions, age 91, of Elba, Ala., died Friday, Dec. 9, 2022, at her home.

She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother who loved the Lord. She was a member of Fairview Baptist Church where she served many years as the church clerk. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022, from Fairview Baptist Church with burial following in Fairview Cemetery. Brian Sawyer and Donald Hall will be officiating. Visitation will be held at the church from 12:30 p.m. until service time.

The family requests the omission of flowers and memorials be made to Fairview Baptist Church or Fairview Cemetery, 3159 Hwy 87, Samson, Alabama 36477.

Mrs. Sessions was preceded in death by her husband of 63 years, Horace Sessions; grandson, Chad Sessions; parents, Hettie Mae Thomas Rhodes and Clyde G. Rhodes; and brothers, Dorsey Lee Rhodes and Clyde T. Rhodes and wife, Marylene.

Survivors include her sons and daughters-in-law: Charles Frederick "Freddie" Sessions and Linda, Davey Lee Sessions and Lynn, and Chris Alan Sessions and Shan; brother: Wilson Terrell Rhodes and wife, Joyce; sister-in-law: Sara Rhodes; grandchildren: Kasey Sessions Burnham and husband, Phillip, Nicole Bradley Sessions, Jayme Sessions, Jessie Sessions and Grayson Sessions and wife, Marylene.

Survivors include her mother: Eva Lee Miller; mother-in-law: Eva Jean Currington; four children: Antonio (Demetria) Ordon, Monique Ordon, Jeanneva Mitchell, and Bobby Ordon; two nephews she helped raise: Dominique (Andre) Miller and Randy Miller; two brothers: Leon (Annie) Miller, Bernard (Wanda) Miller; nieces and nephews: Dee Miller, Khalilah Gray, Ronreaco Barber, Rashad Davis, and Trinity Miller; 15 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; a special longtime friend: Leon Frazier; and a host of other aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Chancey; great-grandchildren: Bryce Burnham, Ryann Sessions, Kaylann Walters and Liam Walters; and special caregiver, Janis Puzar.

DEANTHONY DMARCUS YOUNG

Mr. DeAnthony "Scoot" DMarcus Young, age 25, died Sunday, Dec. 4, 2022, due to injuries sustained in a traffic accident.



Funeral services were held Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022 at Shady Grove AME Church, Elba, with Coleman Funeral Home directing.

Scoot was preceded in death by his mother, Sarah Young; one brother, Anthony C. Young; and his grandfather, PJ Young.

AMBRIA FLEMING SR.

Mrs. Ambria Fleming Sr., of Enterprise, Ala., died Sunday, Dec. 4, 2022.

He was born on July 11, 1945 in Enterprise to the late Zerubbabel Isaac Fleming Sr. and Hattie Mae Harley Fleming A.C. was a 1963 graduate of Coffee County Training Coppinville High School in Enterprise. He received a football scholarship to Alabama A & M University in Huntsville, Ala.

A.C. was a Master Mason for over 50 years, and he served as treasurer of New Zion Lodge #457 for more than 30 years. He was a member of the Coffee County Training Coppinville High School Alumni Association.

Graveside services were held Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022, from New Zion AME Church Cemetery with Coleman Funeral Home of Enterprise directing.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Barbara Jordan Fleming; sister, Hattie A. Fisher; and a "sisterly" cousin, Nettie R. Snow.

Survivors include his sons: Ambria C. Fleming Jr., Silver City, NM, Christopher (Regina) Fleming, Midland City, AL, Lance Fleming, Enterprise, and Alex (Ashley) Fleming, Dothan, Ala.; five grandchildren:

BELINDA DALE ORDON

Mrs. Belinda Dale Ordon, age 62, of Elba, Ala., died Friday, Dec. 9, 2022.



Born April 27, 1960, Belinda was married to the late Robert Anthony Ordon, and to this union, four children were born.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022, at the Mulberry Association Building in Elba with Coleman Funeral Home directing.

Belinda was preceded in death by her father, Jessie Miller; a sister, Kecia Monique Barber; brother, Larry "Hook" Miller; and her niece, Jamilah "Millie" Miller.

Survivors include her mother: Eva Lee Miller; mother-in-law: Eva Jean Currington; four children: Antonio (Demetria) Ordon, Monique Ordon, Jeanneva Mitchell, and Bobby Ordon; two nephews she helped raise: Dominique (Andre) Miller and Randy Miller; two brothers: Leon (Annie) Miller, Bernard (Wanda) Miller; nieces and nephews: Dee Miller, Khalilah Gray, Ronreaco Barber, Rashad Davis, and Trinity Miller; 15 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren; a special longtime friend: Leon Frazier; and a host of other aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

VIVIAN NADINE JACKSON

Mrs. Vivian Nadine Jackson, age 87, of Elba, Ala., died Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2022, at the Elba Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Funeral services were held Friday, Dec. 9, 2022, from the Chapel of Hayes Funeral Home in Elba with Rev. Allen Richards officiating. Burial services followed in the Mount Zion Cemetery with Hayes Funeral Home directing.

Mrs. Jackson was preceded in death by her husbands - Jimmy Bryan, and Lawrence Jackson; father - Jack Lee Sr., mother - Lola Kelly Lee, sons - Tommy Bryan, and Ricky Bryan; brother - Jack Lee Jr., and sister - Glenda Anderson. Survivors include her brothers: Jessie Lee, Dothan, Ala., and Howard Lee, Elba; sister: Syble McLaney, Newton, Ala.; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

DELORES HORNSBY WILLIAMS

Mrs. Delores Hornsby Williams, of Enterprise, Ala., died Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2022.

She was born to the late John and Bernice Hornsby of South Florida. At the age of 16, Delores moved to Coffee Springs, Ala. to live with her father and stepmother. She graduated from Riverside Heights High School in Geneva, Ala. She went to Gary, Indiana to go to college and get her college degree. After retirement, she relocated to Enterprise.

Funeral services were held Friday, Dec. 9, 2022, at Pleasant Shady Missionary Baptist Church with Coleman Funeral Home of Elba directing. Survivors include her son: Richard Adams Jr.; two step-daughters: Daphne Winston, Clearwater, Fla., and Divide (Sam) Johnson, Gary, Ind.; three grandchildren: Imari Lee, Perry Lee, Pittsburg, Pa., and Semaj Wilkins, Enterprise; six sisters and three brothers: M.C. Hornsby, New York, NY, Marilyn (Larry) Hadley, Slocomb, Ala., Ruth A.

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SUNDAY!**

Alexis Fleming, Jordan Fleming, both of Midland City, Jaylen Emory, Smiths Station, Ala., Calix Fleming, Fort Worth, Texas, and Audrianna Fleming, Dothan; sister: Myrdia Lorena Davis, Enterprise; brothers: Z.I. Fleming Jr., Jubal (Mary) Fleming, both of Enterprise; a "sisterly" cousin: Eva Lou Foster, Grady, Ala.; sisters-in-law: Nancy Anderson, Florence, Ala., Constance Jordan, Springfield, Mass.; brothers-in-law: James Monroe Jordan, Florence; Raymond Williams, Springfield; special friend: Gwen Whittle, Petersburg, Va.; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

LINDSEY CHANCELLOR

Mrs. Lindsey Chancellor, Ala., died Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2022, at the Elba Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Survivors include her husband: Collins Pruitt, Collins Pruitt, Wilson McLeod, William McLeod; two aunts, Betty Patterson and Annie Deloise McLeod; four cousins, Jennifer Jackson, Grethchen Carstarphen, Shi'Quan Pouncey, Khamani Sanders.

Survivors include her life partner: Kelly McCloud; her siblings: Selina McLeod (Larry Tyrues), LeVaughn McLeod (Jaywana Simmons), Ashley McLeod (Willie Wilkerson II); her children: Dinazhia (Rodrick) Hayes, Dajah (Demetriyunte) Smith, Al'tazcia McLeod, Shuntazia Dennard; her grandchildren: Zaylin Hayes, Akili Smith, Jayceion Smith, Zane Hayes; along with a host of aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, family, and friends.

MARGARET DARLENE COTTON

Mrs. Margaret Darlene Cotton, age 65, died peacefully Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022.

She was born on October 19, 1957, in Bartow, Fla., to the late Nicholas Lazorko and Edna Glynn Watkins Hollinghead.

A celebration of life service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, 2023, at New Beginnings Church, Opp, Ala., with Coleman Funeral Home of Elba directing. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to New Beginnings Church, P.O. Box 811, Opp, AL 36467.

Survivors include her husband: Marshall Cotton; her children: Wayne Edwards (Emily), Matthew Edwards, Brian Edwards; her siblings: Edward Lazorko (Jackie), Donna Lazorko, Brian "Binky" Lazorko (Deedy), Jeannie Griggs (Perry), Sharon Morgan (Steve) and Adam Kersey; her grandchildren, Tyler, Ella, Chloe, Levi, Shelby, and Athena; and special aunt: Margaret Watkins, and uncle: Horton "Buddy" Watkins (Linda).

SHARRIE L. IRBY

Mrs. Sharrie L. Irby, of Enterprise, Ala., died Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2022, at her home after a short period of declining health.

She was born January 9, 1957 to the union of the late Roger and Julia Rice. Sharrie graduated from Westside High in Anderson in 1975. On Nov. 7, 1978, she enlisted in the U.S. Army. Her tours in the Army took her to numerous locations and eventually Ft. Rucker, Ala. She ended her military career at Ft. Rucker to become a stay-at-home mom.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022, at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church with Coleman Funeral Home of Enterprise directing.

She was preceded in death by one sister, Mary Rice; and three brothers, Bobby Rice, Roger Rice Jr. and Anthony Rice.

Survivors include her husband of 39 years: Ricky Irby; her daughter: Kaneesha Irby; and her son: Trimaine Irby; two grandsons: Jamal and Micah (and another on the way); siblings: Nora Rice, Janice (William) Smith, Tracy (Alfonso) Sampson, and Ed (Corine) Rice; along with her nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022, at First Baptist Church Enterprise with Coleman Funeral Home of Enterprise directing.

She was preceded in death by one sister, Mary Rice; and three brothers, Bobby Rice, Roger Rice Jr. and Anthony Rice.

Survivors include her husband of 39 years: Ricky Irby; her daughter: Kaneesha Irby; and her son: Trimaine Irby; two grandsons: Jamal and Micah (and another on the way); siblings: Nora Rice, Janice (William) Smith, Tracy (Alfonso) Sampson, and Ed (Corine) Rice; along with her nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022, at First Baptist Church Enterprise with Coleman Funeral Home of Enterprise directing.

She was preceded in death by one sister, Mary Rice; and three brothers, Bobby Rice, Roger Rice Jr. and Anthony Rice.

Survivors include her husband of 39 years: Ricky Irby; her daughter: Kaneesha Irby; and her son: Trimaine Irby; two grandsons: Jamal and Micah (and another on the way); siblings: Nora Rice, Janice (William) Smith, Tracy (Alfonso) Sampson, and Ed (Corine) Rice; along with her nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives and friends.

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10 Ways to Remember Your Loved One

Dealing with grief and loss can be especially difficult during the holidays. Here are some ways to honor and remember loved ones who have passed away.

Add a special item to your holiday decorations specifically for your loved one. You might hang a stocking for them or set a place for them at your table. It could even be something simple like putting out a blanket that reminds you of them.

Make a donation to a charity in their name.

Look through old photos and share stories with other friends and family members. When you gather with family or friends, pull out old photos and pass them around. Share the memories and stories that are brought to mind.

Make a special place for people to write down memories. This could be as simple as a piece of paper and a marker. Or you could use a notebook, an empty gift box, or even an ornament or stocking.

Volunteer your time to help others in need.

Make a memory box. Have friends or family bring photos, letters, or small mementos that remind them of your loved one and make a memory box. You can also take turns sharing why each item is special and how it reminds you of that person as you place it in the box.

Take a trip. Go somewhere you've always wanted to travel or choose a location that reminds you of your loved one.

Cook their favorite dish or meal.

Make a special ornament. You can have a personalized one made with your loved one's name or picture, or you can make one yourself.

Take care of yourself. The most important thing is to remember to take care of yourself and pay attention to your needs. If you need to take a break and be alone, that is fine. If you'd rather be around friends and family, that is fine as well.

Taking some time to remember and honor your loved one can be healing and gratifying. Whatever you choose to do, remember that there is no right or wrong way to do it. Simply choose something that brings you joy and comfort during this holiday season.

Submit a report to the Alabama Department of Human Resources. Adult Protective Services Division

1-800-458-7214

aps.dhr.alabama.gov

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

431 East Davis Elba, Alabama 36323 (334) 897-2225

If you would like a free funeral decisions guide, please email me at hayesfh@hayesfuneralhome.net

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CLASSIFIEDS

The Elba Clipper

P.O. Box 677 Elba, AL 36323

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AD

CALL 334-897-2823
FAX 334-897-3434
e-mail clipper@troyable.net

DEADLINE

The deadline for placing a classified or other advertisement is noon on Tuesday of the week in which the ad is to appear.

COST

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*Additional words 20¢ each

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SUPPORT THE BLIND! Donate a car to the American Council of the Blind. FAST FREE PICKUP. 24-hour response. Running or not, maximum tax deduction and no emission test required! Call 24/7: 844-601-1342.**AUTO INSURANCE** from \$29 month. Free 2-minute Quote! We Compare all Insurance providers offers for you! Lowest Rates! Call Now 866-450-0943**VEHICLE TITLE** Problems? We have a solution! Call Jason Steward Enterprises, We're Alabama's #1 Vehicle Title Problem Experts! Free telephone consultation. North AL 1-256-850-0527, Central AL 1-205-267-5735, South AL 1-251-342-8538.

LEGAL NOTICES:

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA ELBA DIVISION

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF NELLIE J. ANDERSON, DECEASED

CASE NO: PC-2022-080

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TAKE NOTICE that letters Testamentary were granted on 8th day of December, 2022, to Jerry McMillan, as Executor of the Estate of Nellie Anderson, a/k/a Nellie J. Anderson, deceased, who departed this life on the 4th day of June, 2022, by the Hon. Jodee Rowe Thompson, Judge of probate.

NOTICE IS HEREBY

GIVEN that all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

/s/Jerry McMillan

Jerry McMillan, Executor of The Estate of Nellie Anderson, a/k/a Nellie J. Anderson, deceased

12/15,22,29-pd

LEGAL NOTICES

Public Notices also are posted on the websites: www.elba-clipper.com and www.alabamapublicnotices.com at no extra charge

LEGAL NOTICE

In accordance with Chapter 1, Title 39, Code of Alabama, 1975, as amended, notice is hereby given that Bullard Excavating, Inc., Contractor, has completed the Contract for Construction of Resurfacing and Erosion Repairs, DCM (BC) Project Number: 2021-128, PSCA Project Number: 9200 at Elba, Alabama for the State of Alabama and the Elba City School Board of Education, Owner(s), and have made request for final settlement of said Contract.

All persons having any claim for labor, materials, or otherwise in connection with this project should immediately notify Bullard Excavating, Inc., 13264 Eva Drive, Andalusia, Alabama 36420

Hudson Personal Representative

12/8,15,22-pd.

PUBLIC AUCTION

In accordance with S-32 Chapter 13 code of Alabama 1975, the following abandoned vehicle will be sold at auction on Thursday, December 29, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. at 1094 County Road 505, Elba, AL 36323.

1991 GMC S15 SONOMA, V.I.N. #1GTC14E5M8501959.

12/8,15-pd

RIGHT OF WAY FOR A DISTANCE OF 66.73 FEET TO A SET CROSS IN A CONCRETE DRIVEWAY, SAID POINT BEING THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE PARCEL HEREIN DESCRIBED; THENCE CONTINUE ALONG THE LAST DESCRIBED COURSE AND SAID RIGHT OF WAY FOR A DISTANCE OF 53.38 FEET TO A FOUND CAPPED REBAR, SAID POINT MARKING THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE PROPERTY CONVEYED TO ERIC BRION IN DEED BOOK 107, PAGE 848 IN THE OFFICE OF THE JUDGE OF PROBATE, COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA; THENCE LEAVING SAID RIGHT OF WAY TURN AN INTERIOR ANGLE TO THE LEFT OF 96 DEGREES 23 MINUTES 33 SECONDS AND RUN IN A NORTHERLY DIRECTION ALONG THE EAST LINE OF THE SAID ERIC BRION PROPERTY FOR A DISTANCE OF 113.01 FEET TO A SET 5/8 INCH CAPPED REBAR; THENCE TURN AN INTERIOR ANGLE TO THE LEFT OF 83 DEGREES 36 MINUTES 37 SECONDS AND RUN IN A SOUTHERLY DIRECTION FOR A DISTANCE OF 59.00 FEET TO A SET 5/8 INCH CAPPED REBAR; THENCE TURN AN INTERIOR ANGLE TO THE LEFT OF 93 DEGREES 32 MINUTES 58 SECONDS AND RUN IN A SOUTHERLY DIRECTION FOR A DISTANCE OF 112.53 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. SAID PARCEL CONTAINS 6,311 SQUARE FEET OR 0.15 ACRES, MORE OR LESS. TOGETHER WITH AN ACCESS EASEMENT MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS: COMMENCE AT A FOUND CAPPED REBAR STAMPED "GSA", SAID POINT MARKING THE INTERSECTION OF THE SOUTHWESTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF DONALD STREET (PREScriptive R.O.W.) AND THE NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY OF DAMASCUS ROAD A.K.A. ALABAMA HIGHWAY 134 (60' R.O.W.); THENCE RUN IN A WESTERLY DIRECTION ALONG THE NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY OF DAMASCUS ROAD FOR A DISTANCE OF 227.65 FEET TO A POINT, SAID POINT BEING THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE EASEMENT HEREIN DESCRIBED; THENCE TURN EASEMENT HEREIN DESCRIBED; THENCE TURN CONTINUE ALONG THE LAST DESCRIBED COURSE AND SAID RIGHT OF WAY FOR A DISTANCE OF 15.00 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE TURN AN INTERIOR ANGLE TO THE LEFT OF 93 DEGREES 32 MINUTES 58 SECONDS AND RUN IN A NORTHERLY DIRECTION ALONG THE NORTHERLY RIGHT OF WAY OF DAMASCUS ROAD A.K.A. ALABAMA HIGHWAY 134 (60' R.O.W.); THENCE TURN AN INTERIOR ANGLE TO THE LEFT OF 86 DEGREES 27 MINUTES 02 SECONDS

Subject to all zoning, easements, restrictions, restrictive covenants and reservations appearing of record. Said sale will also be made subject to any Federal Tax Liens, Ad Valorem Real Estate Taxes and/or Special Assessments of any nature, if any, which might adversely affect the title to the property. The title is being sold "as is, where is". Said property is sold without warranty or recourse, expressed or implied as to title, use, enjoyment or condition. The mortgagee or transferee reserves the right to bid for and purchase the real estate and credit its purchase price against the expenses of sale and the indebtedness secured by the real estate.

All bidders will be required to execute a bidding agreement prior to sale. Copies of the bidding agreement may be obtained prior to the sale. The successful bidder will be required to pay the bid amount at the time of sale in cash or certified funds.

Alabama law gives some persons who have an interest in property the right to redeem the property under certain circumstances. Programs may also exist that help persons avoid or delay the foreclosure process. An attorney should be consulted to help you understand these rights and programs as a part of the foreclosure process.

This sale is made for the purpose of paying the indebtedness secured by said mortgage, as well as the attorney's fees and expenses of foreclosure.

This sale is subject to cancellation or postponement.

ALL IN CREDIT UNION FORMERLY KNOWN AS ARMY AVIATION CENTER FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, Mortgagee-Transferee

Leonard N. Math
Chamblee Math □ Carr, P.C.
P.O. Box 230759
Montgomery, Alabama
36123-0759334-272-2230
12-15,22,29-chg

LEGAL NOTICE

Grady Ralls & Sons, Inc., hereby gives notice of completion of contract with the State of Alabama for construction of Project No. HSIP-0134(510) in Coffee County, SR-134 at the intersection of CR-460 and CR 461 East of Opp. This notice will appear for four consecutive weeks beginning on 12/15/22 and ending on 1/5/23. All claims should be filed at Grady Ralls & Sons, Inc., 12364 Brookland Road, Evergreen, AL 36401 during this period.

Grady Ralls & Sons, Inc.
12/15,22,29&1/5/23-chg.

Legal Notice

S. A. Graham Company, Inc. hereby gives notice of completion of contract with the

Coffee County Commission

for construction of proj-

ект Coffee County C/D

Landfill

Cells 1-1, 1-2, & 1-3 in

Coffee County. This notice

will appear for four consecutive

weeks beginning on

December 8, 2022 and

ending on December 29,

2022. All claims

should be filed at P.O. Box

726 Brundidge, Alabama

36010 during this period.

S. A. Graham Company, Inc.,

12/8,15,22,29-chg

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA ELBA DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:

MARK ALTON COUCH,

Deceased

CASE NO. PC 2022-079

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT TO BE PUBLISHED BY EXECUTOR

Letters Testamentary under

the Last Will and Testament

of said deceased having

been granted to Hoke A. Peters, on the 29th

day of November, 2022,

by the Honorable Jodee R. Thompson, Judge of Probate of Coffee County, Alabama, notice is hereby given that all persons having claims against said Estate are hereby required to present the same within the time allowed by law or the same will be barred.

/s/ Hoke A. Peters, Executor

Hoke A. Peters, Executor

12/8,15,22-pd

IN THE PROBATE COURT OF COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA ELBA DIVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:

TERRY WAYNE

HUDSON

Deceased

CASE NO. PC-22-075

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Take notice that Letters

Testamentary were granted

to Christopher Wayne

Hudson, as Personal

Representative of the Estate

of Terry Wayne Hudson,

deceased, on the 29th

day of November, 2022, by the

Judge of Probate for Coffee

County, Alabama.

Notice is hereby given that

all persons having claims

against the said Estate are

hereby required to present

the same within the time

allowed by law or the same

will be barred.

/s/ Jerry McMillan

Jerry McMillan, Executor

of The Estate of Nellie

Anderson, a/k/a Nellie J.

Anderson, deceased

12/15,22,29-pd

/s/ Christopher Wayne

CONTINUE ALONG SAID

COFFEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY REPORTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022

The Coffee County Board of Education's FY2022 Accountability Reports are available for public view. The available reports are (1) Financial Report, (2) School Safety and Discipline Report and (3) Student Achievement Report. The Financial Report and the School Safety and Discipline Report are accessible at the Board's Central Office, 400 Reddoch Hill Road, Elba, as well as, at each of our schools. The reports may also be viewed via the district's website, www.coffeecountyschools.org. The Student Achievement Report may be accessed at the ALSDE's website (www.alsde.edu) under the Data Center, Assessment Reports.

12/15-chg.

CHURCH and LIFESTYLES

Elba UMC's December events

Sunday, Dec. 18th at 10 a.m. - Chancel Choir Cantata
 Saturday, Dec. 24th at 6 p.m. - Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service ** The Sanctuary will remain open Dec. 24th until 8 p.m. for those who desire Holy Communion
 Sunday, Dec. 25th at 10 a.m. - Christmas Day Worship Service ** All are welcome to wear Christmas pajamas and even bring a toy!

Basin Baptist Church extends invitation to Christmas services, Dec. 18th & 25th

Basin Baptist Church invites all to participate in upcoming Christmas services.

On Sunday, Dec. 18, at 10:30 a.m., the church choir will present a musical worship program. Sunday School will be at 9:30 a.m. on this day.

CCBOE

were in attendance for last Thursday evening's board meeting.

The superintendent congratulated the Kinston Varsity Cheerleaders for their achievement as Class 1A State Champs in traditional cheer. The squad won the state championship early last week.

Cobb further noted that she had the privilege Saturday, Dec. 3, to see all three Coffee County high

Continued from Page ONE

school bands - Kinston, New Brockton, and Zion Chapel - come together to perform as one band in the New Brockton Christmas Parade. "It was great to see that collaboration and see how great they all performed together," Cobb said. "It was amazing."

The next regular meeting for the board will be Thursday, Feb. 2, at 5:30 p.m.

Continued from Page ONE

RETIRE

In serving as the E911 coordinator the past 19 years McILwain said he has come to realize that Coffee County has one of the best 911 boards in the state. He said the county's 911 program has been a model for many other areas across the state.

"When you leave a job, you hope you are leaving

it better than you found it. I hope I am leaving it better than I found it. I am certainly leaving it in good hands to carry on," he said.

McILwain said he waited until he was an old man to get the best job he has ever had, and he thanked the county for honoring him upon his retirement from public service.

Round and About

With Eria's Daughter

897-3611



Scripture: The Lord the strength of His people. Psalm 125: 1-5

Thinking of You! Praying for You.

Christine F. Witcher, Josh Samuels, Angie Dawson, Bernice Culver, Alice Musgrove, Ida Hooks, Cynthia Jones Rayborn

December Birthdays / Anniversaries
 Kimberly McBride 12/20
 Ben and Cynthia J. Rayborn 12/20 W.A.
 Amitra Hammond 12/20
 Debbie Williams Bright 12/21
 Min. Pam Mitchell 12/21
 Grover Belcher 12/23 (in memory)
 Lucille Hammonds 12/23
 Tom Hooks 12/23
 Shane Warren 12/24
 Sean Warren 12/24
 Quran Lamortis Warren 12/24
 Kenneth Daniels 12/25 (in memory)

Question / Answer Section
 Q/A for the Week of 12/15/22
 True or False

Q: The Lord's words to be obeyed were written on two tablets of wood.

A: False [Exodus 31:18]

Q: Only Moses was allowed to approach God on Mount Sinai.

A: False [Exodus 19:24]

Q: The Lord granted permission to David to build a "house" for God.

A: False [2 Samuel 7:5, 12, 13]

Remember
 When love opens the heart it opens the hand.

Questions for the Week of 12/22/22
 True or False

Q: The experience at Sinai was so intense that even Moses was fearful.

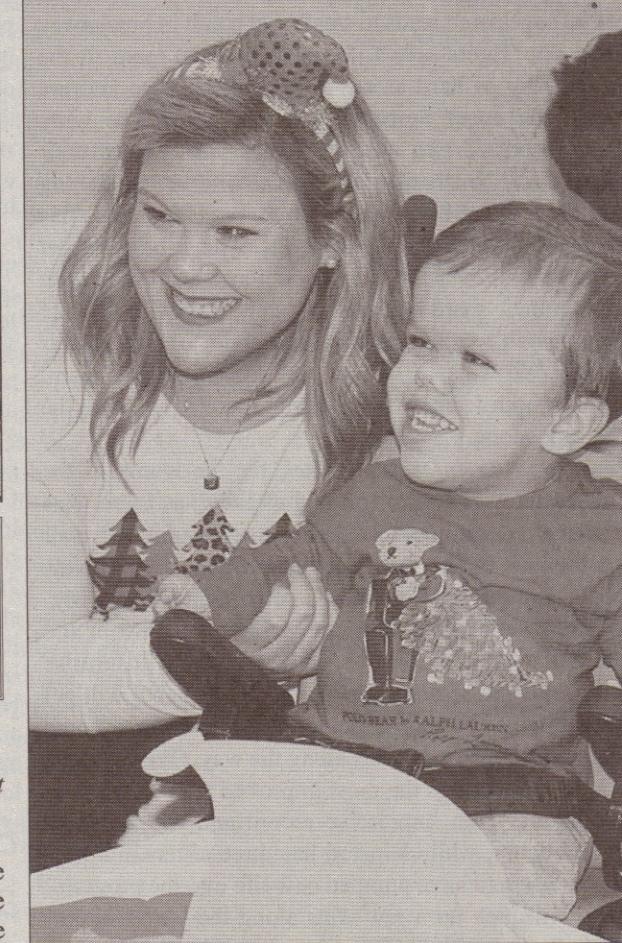
Q: The people's commitment to the law of God included a curse and an oath.

Today is a good day! Be grateful.
 Eria's Daughter, Sue

Always Attend the Church of Your Choice!



SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PARTY! The administration and staff of the Coffee County School System held a Christmas Party last Tuesday morning, Dec. 6, for special needs students. The party was held at the Coffee County Board of Education office. During the CCBOE meeting Thursday evening, Dec. 8, Superintendent Kelly Cobb said the event was a great success. She said the staff seems to enjoy this Christmas party as much, if not more, than the students. The smiles in the photos above and below indicate all had a great time!



PASTOR'S CORNER

by Paul Jackson, Pastor
 Covenant Community Church

Would you have said 'Yes'?

"Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' —Luke 1:38

This part of the Christmas story is simply amazing. The God of the universe, when the time was just right (see Galatians 4:4), launched his long-anticipated plan to save lost humankind. It was a plan that involved a teenage girl, who would become pregnant by the Holy Spirit, and the child born would be named Jesus, "because he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). He will also be called "Immanuel," because he is "God with us" (Matthew 1:23). This event—what is referred to as the "incarnation," or God himself taking on flesh and blood—astounds me every time I read about it. Think about it for a moment: The God of the universe became a human being, a tiny, vulnerable human being, a baby at that.

Who could think this stuff up? Not even Hollywood could dream up something so astoundingly strange or outlandish!

But equally amazing to me is Mary's response to the angel's announcement that she would become pregnant and give birth to a baby. After initial surprise and bewilderment at how this could happen, she simply said, "Ok, let's do this!"

Mary is this simple, young, unmarried woman who says "Yes" to God. Don't miss this or you'll miss a very important part of what Christmas is all about.

Christmas is about God sending a savior to us, a savior who entered our world in the usual way, not as a full-grown man, but as a tiny baby. He "became flesh" we're told, and "made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14). And even though he possessed in himself life and light (see John 1:4), John also tells us that "he came to his own but his own did not receive him" (John 1:11). "Yet to all who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God..." (John 1:12).

Sadly, it's still the same today: Some open their heart to God and say "Yes!" to his amazing gift of love. But many won't.

Like Mary, we all need an open, welcoming heart to simply by faith say, "Yes!" to God.

Our "Yes" to God probably won't be nearly so dramatic as was Mary's, but it will still be life altering.

What about you? Have you said "Yes!" to God's Christmas gift to you? If you would like to know more about saying "Yes!" to God this Christmas, call me. I'd love to talk to you (334-845-2561).

The Grantham Agency
 603 N. Claxton Ave., Elba, AL

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JOIN US THIS SEASON TO Rediscover Christmas GOOD NEWS IN TROUBLING TIMES
 ONLINE OR IN PERSON AT COVENANT COMMUNITY CHURCH WWW.COMETOCOVENANT.COM
 Worship with Us This Christmas Season!
Sundays 10:00 am
 Casual, Friendly and Welcoming to All
CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION SERVICE DEC 24 @ 5:00 - 5:45 PM
FAMILY CHRISTMAS MORNING DEC. 25 @ 10 - 10:45 AM
 Breakfast finger foods at 9:30 a.m. in the Gathering Area
Covenant Community Church
 2267 Hickman Ave • Elba, AL
 (334) 897-2288

City of ELBA NOTICE
City Privilege Licenses are due
January 1, 2023 and delinquent
February 1, 2023
Penalties will be assessed if license is not purchased prior to February 1.
For further information or to purchase a license, please contact Sandra Berry at (334) 897-2333.
City of Elba, AL
Sally Bane, City Clerk

SPORTS NEWS

Views From

The Pressbox

By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

We did a little Christmas shopping over the weekend with the Dunn Family and our youngest grandson Cannon and while we walked a few more miles than I had planned for and spent a few more dollars than I had hoped for, it was a good day as Cannon met Santa Claus for the first time and seemed to enjoy every moment he was awake looking at all the people and decorations. I guess it was the start of a new Christmas tradition.

For what it is worth....

*** **The Elba Tigers ran their winning streak** to four games last week with solid road wins over Goshen and Pike Lib, and all of the sudden the Tigers look like a team that could make some noise as the season progresses. While Elba does shoot around twenty three-pointers a game, its biggest asset is its speed all over the court that forces turnovers and leads to steals that result in breakaway baskets. The Tigers aren't the most talented team in the state, but play as hard as any team you will see and are getting better every time they take the court. The Lady Tigers also posted two wins last week with two of their players on the bench nursing injuries and are beginning to play the style of ball that Coach Shaun Hammonds has used over the years to pile up wins. The Elba girls get after the ball all over the court on defense and do commit more than their share of fouls, but get away with a lot of fouls that aren't called and use the style to fluster their opponents. No wins will come easy for either Elba team, but I think both teams will get their share of wins as the season rolls along.

*** **It was an interesting week** for the teams in the area as Brantley began to roll and already has three wins under its belt, Kinston grabbed a big cross-county win over New Brockton, Zion Chapel clobbered Samson and New Brockton battled, but fell short in two games. An early-season observation is that Brantley will only get better and big the team to beat in the area, while Kinston will surprise some folks as the season rolls along. Zion Chapel will get its share of wins and New Brockton will also surprise some folks and pull off some upsets along the way. Over with the girls, New Brockton is the most improved team in the area despite its less than impressive record and will only get better and better, while Kinston has three sisters and new coach that seem to have pumped new life into the program. Brantley will pick up a few wins along the way and pull off an upset or two, and Zion Chapel will look to just get better in a rebuilding season.

*** **Many small college basketball teams** play much larger schools early in the season to make money, while at the high school level many teams compete against bigger schools early in the season to get ready for area play. The latter is definitely the case for the Kinston Bulldogs, who have challenged just about any team they could find to get ready for their 'second season' that comes after the holidays. The 1A Bulldogs have lost to 5A Headland, 4A Andalusia, 3A powers Houston Academy and Geneva, and 2A bullies Geneva County and G.W. Long. The rest of the schedule can't get any harder than that! Zion Chapel has also not backed away from competition in early-season play as the 2A Rebels have split with 4A Dale County and 1A power Florala, while losing close games to Abbeville and Arinton. I know the coaches at Kinston and Zion Chapel don't believe in moral victories. So, there is no doubt the schedules were made to get their teams ready to make a run.

*** I know many college football fans and coaches believe college football players should have the right to change schools if they feel like they made a mistake making their first choice out of high school and should also be able to cash in on the use of their name, image and likeness. This may be true and is now the law of the land, but I for one believe the 'player portal' and 'nil' have destroyed college sports! When player can leave a college anytime he wishes for any reason it is almost impossible for a college to build a program by simply recruiting high school players. Just about every single high school standout that heads to college thinks they will head on to the pros. However, when for some reason they don't make the starting lineup or feel their true 'value' may not be reached, they now simply enter the portal and change schools. To make matters worse for the coaches, name, image, likeness rules don't exist and you know college boosters make calls to players with offers of legal money, if they will change schools. Alabama has already had five offensive linemen enter the portal, and while that isn't exactly a glamorous position, I have read that a booster in Texas has a standing offer of \$1 million to any offensive lineman that signs with the school. College sports now has annual 'free agency' for all its players in all sports, and with the big money being waved in front of the players faces the portal will only get busier and busier in years to come as the players sell their wares. Maybe it is time for colleges to just stop giving athletic scholarships and go back to the days of intramural athletics, with real students playing the games for fun, and let the 'big money' universities and athletes create a new professional league as nothing more than a source of income for the schools. Hey folks, believe it or not, the college sports world we grew up watching is over for good!

APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR
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ELBA
Housing Authority

1207 North Claxton Avenue • Elba, AL 36323
(334) 897-2737 • www.elbahousing.org

The Elba Housing Authority does not discriminate because of race, color, national origin, sex, perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, religion, familial status, or disability. The Elba Housing Authority has handicapped accessible units.

Tigers winning streak reaches four games

The Elba Tigers ran their winning streak to four games last week with road wins over Goshen 40-33 and Pike Liberal Arts 60-36.

Following are highlights of the two wins:

Elba 40 Goshen 33

The Elba Tigers rallied from a 7-point third quarter deficit behind the play of Cameron Gray and Cody Gray to rally for an exciting 40-33 road win Thursday night over the Goshen Eagles.

Both teams had more turnovers than points in the first quarter as Goshen crept out to a 5-4 lead, and while Elba's Cody Gray, JT Coleman and Taylor Purvis all connected on three-pointers in the second quarter, the baskets were the only points the Tigers would score as they carried a slim 13-11 lead in at the half.

Goshen scored the first eight points of the third quarter to open up a 19-13 lead with 5:04 left in the stanza, and used a 4-0 run midway through the quarter to take a 26-19 lead. Elba's Cody Gray nailed a three-pointer and Tiger teammate Cameron Gray added a long three-pointer at the buzzer to pull Elba within 26-25 heading into the final stanza. Goshen stretched its lead out to 28-25 early in the fourth quarter. However, Cameron Gray and Cody Gray connected again from behind the arc to spark an 11-0 run as Elba

scored the first eight points of the third quarter to open up a 19-13 lead with 5:04 left in the stanza, and used a 4-0 run midway through the quarter to take a 26-19 lead. Elba's Cody Gray nailed a three-pointer and Tiger teammate Cameron Gray added a long three-pointer at the buzzer to pull Elba within 26-25 heading into the final stanza. Goshen stretched its lead out to 28-25 early in the fourth quarter. However, Cameron Gray and Cody Gray connected again from behind the arc to spark an 11-0 run as Elba

Tigers go on a 7-0 run as they regained the lead at 35-28 with 4:19 left on the clock, and Elba easily held on to claim the exciting 37-31 road win.

Elba 37 Goshen 31

The Elba Lady Tigers used an 8-0 run to open the fourth quarter to pull ahead and never looked back Thursday night in a 37-31 road win over the Goshen Lady Eagles.

Elba jumped out to an early 5-0 lead on a three-pointer by A'Lyric Whitfield and a basket by Ana Caldwell, and remained in command throughout the stanza as it carried an 11-5 lead into the second quarter.

Goshen scored four quick points in the second quarter to pull within 11-9, but the Lady Tigers regained command behind the play of A'Lyric Whitfield and Tajah Purvis and used a 7-2 run to open up an 18-9

lead with 3:05 left in the quarter and at the half went in with a 21-14 lead.

Tajah Purvis scored two baskets early in the third quarter to push the Elba lead to 25-17, but the Lady Tigers only scored one point the remainder of the stanza as Goshen rallied to grab a 28-27 lead heading into the fourth quarter. A put back by A'lyria Caldwell and a short jumper by Tajah Purvis helped the Lady

Tigers go on a 7-0 run as they regained the lead at 35-28 with 4:19 left on the clock, and Elba easily held on to claim the exciting 37-31 road win.

A'Lyric Whitfield scored 15 points and Tajah Purvis added 10 to lead Elba, while also scoring for the Lady Tigers were A'lyria Caldwell 4, Ana Caldwell 4, Brooke Tinsley 2 and Alayvia Stinson 2. AJ Rogers scored 12 points and Alyssa Sparks added 11 to lead the Lady Eagles.

Elba 54 Pike Lib 14

The Elba Lady Tigers made it look easy Friday night with a lopsided 54-14 road win over Pike Liberal Arts, in Troy.

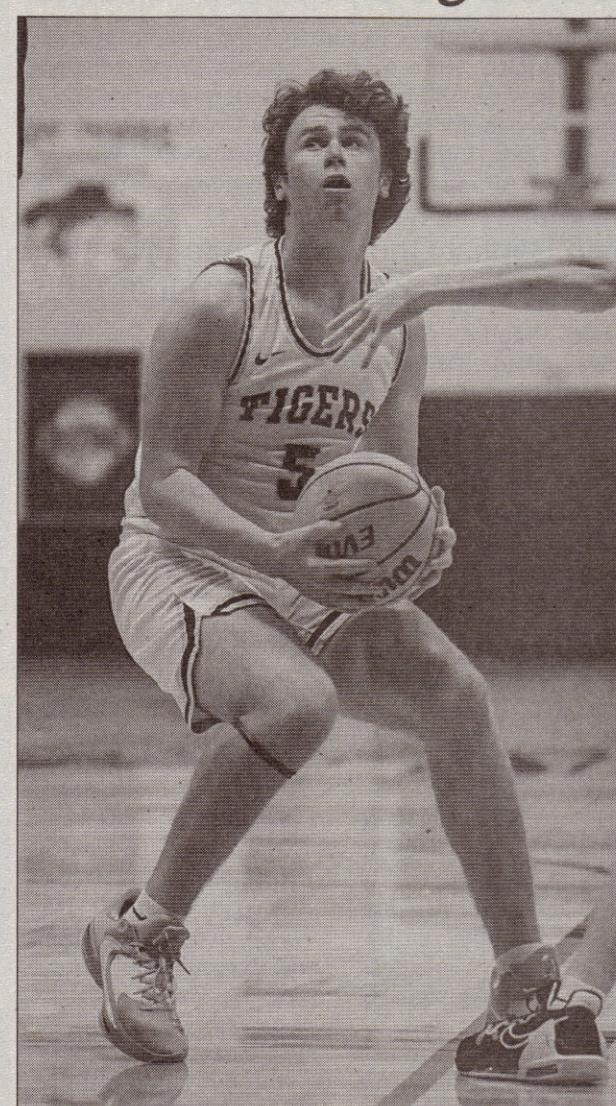
Elba's A'Lyric Whitfield poured in 19 points in the first half and Alayvia Stinson added 8 points in the second quarter to help the Lady Tigers open up a 34-10 halftime advantage, while Elba continued to light up the scoreboard in the third quarter and stretched its lead to 52-14 as it coasted to the easy win.

A'Lyric Whitfield scored 30 points and Alayvia Stinson added 10 points to lead Elba, while also scoring for the Lady Tigers were A'lyria Caldwell 6, Yada Caldwell 3, Brooke Tinsley 2, Ana Caldwell 2, and Tajah Purvis 1. Brooklyn Fountain scored 6 points to lead Pike Lib.

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Elba Tiger Ty Sieving (5) eyes the goal after getting inside position in recent action.

(Photo by BC Sports Photography)



Elba Lady Tiger Kendra Juarez (25) dribbles upcourt as she looks for a teammate.

(Photo by BC Sports Photography)

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SPORTS NEWS



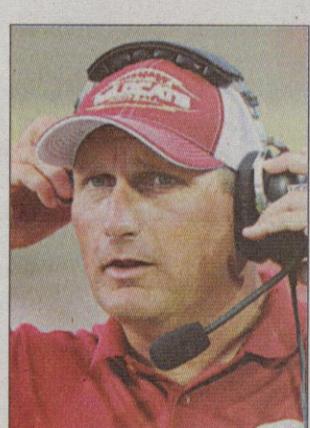
Zion Chapel Rebel Ian Herbert (13) drives to the basket for a two-pointer in a recent win.
(Photo by Amanda Clark)

Barnett hired as football coach at New Brockton

The New Brockton Gamecocks have a new leader for their football program as former Citronelle head coach Jason Barnett has been officially named to the position.

Barnett was the head coach at Citronelle for the past five years after spending the previous 18 years as an assistant at Escambia Academy, Monroe County, Baldwin County and Citronelle. At Citronelle, Barnett led his teams to an overall record of 20-31.

"The biggest issue is getting the kids out and keeping those kids out," said Barnett, in a published interview last week. "We have got to go in there and make it fun again. That is a big issue, to make football fun again, because football is not fun for everybody. I also want to get to know the kids and build relationships by having time with them and letting them know that we are human too."



JASON BARNETT

Elba JV split two road games

The Elba Tigers bounced back from their first loss of the season to Goshen 35-34 and started a new winning streak one night later with a 34-24 win over Pike Liberal Arts.

Following are recaps of both games:

Goshen 35 Elba 34

The Elba Tigers saw a 19-11 halftime advantage vanish and then saw a late rally fall one-point short Thursday night in a 35-34 road loss to the Goshen Eagles. Elba took command early and appeared in charge at the half with the 19-11 lead. However, Goshen outscored the Tigers 15-4 in the third quarter to grab a 26-23 lead and Elba could never catch up.

Javante Griggs scored 9 points and Brady Johnson added 8 to lead Elba, while also scoring for the Tigers.

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High School ROUNDBALL ROUNDUP

BOYS VARSITY:

Bulldogs edged by Geneva County 49-46

The Kinston Bulldogs battled for all four quarters in a 49-46 road loss to Geneva County, last Monday night in Hartford. Tripp Hawthorne scored 16 points and Cale Sumblin added 14 to lead Kinston, while Omari Holmes scored 17 points and pulled down 12 rebounds to spark Geneva County.

Brantley Bulldogs batter Goshen 54-21

The Brantley Bulldogs coasted to a lopsided 54-21 win over the Goshen Eagles, last Monday night in Goshen. Jayden Parks scored 19 points to lead the Bulldogs, while Daylan David added 13 points and grabbed 11 rebounds.

Kinston falls to Andalusia 63-57

The Kinston Bulldogs put a scare into the 4A Andalusia Bulldogs before falling 63-57, last Tuesday night in Andalusia. Conner Tew scored 14 points to lead Kinston, while Cale Sumblin added 12 points and Reece Hall scored 9 points.

New Brockton loses to Goshen 50-37

The New Brockton Gamecocks suffered a 50-37 road loss to the Goshen Eagles, last Tuesday night. Jayden McNabb scored 15 points to lead the Eagles to the win.

Zion Chapel zaps Samson 70-36

The Zion Chapel Rebels made it look easy Thursday night in a 70-36 win over the Samson Tigers. Jacob Chestnut connected on six three-pointers and scored 23 points to lead the Rebels, while Slade Grantham added 19 points and Mason Stuart scored 12. Jacob Chestnut scored 14 points and Coy Ingram added 10 for the Tigers.

Brantley mauls Milton Central 77-32

The Brantley Bulldogs continued their winning ways with a dominating 77-32 win over Milton Central. Jayden Parks scored 20 points and pulled down 8 rebounds to lead the Bulldogs, while Jordan Parks added 10 points, Daylan Davis added 9 points and 6 rebounds and Keldric Brown added 10 rebounds.

GIRLS VARSITY:

Kinston ripped by Geneva County 59-27

The Kinston Lady Bulldogs were outmatched in a 59-27 road loss to Geneva County, last Monday night in Hartford. Camdyn Norris and Kaley Norris both scored 9 points to lead the Lady Bulldogs, while Esma Salazar scored 14 points to lead Geneva County and Charlianna Boutwell and Jayden Williams added 11 points, apiece.

Lady Bulldogs tripped up by Goshen 33-29

The Brantley Lady Bulldogs battled until the final buzzer in a 33-29 loss to the Goshen Lady Eagles, last Monday night in Goshen. Myia Mount scored 12 points and pulled down 15 rebounds to lead the Lady Bulldogs, while Alex Grimes added 10 rebounds.

Lady Gamecocks fall to Goshen 50-16

The New Brockton Lady Gamecocks had a hard time finding their way to the goal in a 50-16 loss to Goshen. Ariana Smith scored 9 points to lead the Lady Gamecocks.

Lady Rebels slammed by Samson 55-20

The Zion Chapel Lady Rebels dropped a 55-20 decision Thursday night to the Samson Lady Tigers. Abigail Odom scored 5 points to lead the Lady Rebels, while Samson was led by Brantley Edberg with 14 points and Holly Warren with 12.

Lady Bulldogs bounce 'Brockton 47-46

Kinston's Lili Sumblin scored with 25-seconds left in the fourth quarter to lift the Lady Bulldogs to a 47-46 win over New Brockton. Kaley Norris scored 28 points and grabbed 13 rebounds to spark Kinston, while Alli Sumblin added 5 points and pulled down 12 rebounds. Reese Eddins scored 12 points to lead the Lady Gamecocks, while Ariana Smith and Anya Barkley both added 11 points, with Barkley pulling down 15 rebounds.

JUNIOR VARSITY:

Kinston falls hard to Geneva County 49-15

The Kinston Bulldogs struggled to score in a 49-15 road loss to the Geneva County Bulldogs, last Monday afternoon in Hartford. Zane Martin scored 9 points to lead Kinston, while Zae Brown scored 11 points to lead Geneva County.

High School BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

Thursday, Dec. 15

Florala Tournament
Slocomb at New Brockton
Kinston at Samson
Zion Chapel at Abbeville

Friday, Dec. 16

Florala Tournament
New Brockton at Northside Methodist
Kinston at Ashford
Zion Chapel at Samson

Tuesday, Dec. 20

New Brockton at Elba
Brantley at Pleasant Home
Zion Chapel at Arion
Zion Chapel at G.W. Long



Zion Chapel Lady Rebel Elly Sheets (24) closes in on an opposing shooter in recent high school basketball action.

(Photo by Amanda Clark)

Elba Tigers and Lady Tigers set for three-days of action in Florala tournament

The Elba Tigers and Lady Tigers will have a busy weekend on the basketball court as both teams travel to Florala High School to compete in the Florala Holiday Tournament.

"While the tournament is not a typical bracket-play tournament," said Elba Tiger coach Kelsey Prestwood, "it does give us the chance to play three games in three days against teams that were not on our schedule. We began the season with a very inexperienced team and every chance we get to get on the court will only make us a better team down the road. We play two teams from Florida and a very talented Dale County team in the three days, but need to play and will play hard every time we take the court."

"I always like to get in some extra games during the holidays and the tournament in Florala will give us an opportunity to continue to grow as a team and give our players a chance to grow as players," added Elba Lady Tiger coach Shaun Hammonds. "We will play against three very good teams in the three days of the tournament and will have our hands full every day, but it will do us good to compete against quality opponents and we are all looking forward to the tournament."

Following is the complete tournament schedule:

Thursday, Dec. 15

2:00 - (Boys) Elba vs. Walton
3:30 - (Girls) Elba vs. Geneva County
5:00 - (Boys) Paxton vs. Geneva County
6:30 - (Girls) Florala vs. Pleasant Home
8:00 - (Boys) Florala vs. Pleasant Home

Friday, Dec. 16

2:00 (Girls) Straughn vs. Elba
3:30 - (Boys) Straughn vs. Bayshore Christian
5:00 - (Boys) Paxton vs. Elba
6:30 - (Girls) Florala vs. Paxton
8:00 - (Boys) Florala vs. Walton

Saturday, Dec. 17

11:00 - (Boys) Bayshore Christian vs. Zion Chapel
12:30 - (Boys) Elba vs. Dale County
2:00 - (Girls) Elba vs. Laurel Hill

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